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ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM IN FRENCH TOGOLAND;  
UPPER VOLTA ADMINISTRATION TRANSFERRED

FRENCH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL PROPOSES ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM FOR TOGO LAND -- Dakar,  
Cette Semaine, 15 Jan 53

On 18 December 1952, the French Council of Ministers adopted and decided to submit to the National Assembly for consideration and approval an administrative reform plan for French Togoland.

In essence, the proposed plan calls for establishment of a so-called Government Council in French Togoland, which would replace the present Privy Council, a purely advisory body. The Government Council would be headed by the Commissioner of the Republic and consist of six other members: three elected by the Territorial Assembly and three appointed by the Commissioner of the Republic. The commissioner would decide on all proposals to be submitted to the Territorial Assembly for deliberation and carry out the assembly's decisions.

The Territorial Assembly which, like all territorial assemblies in the French Overseas Territories, already has greater powers than the general councils in France, would be given the following additional powers: (1) to decide if it should be ascertained what is native common law in French Togoland and whether to codify it; (2) to decide what type of organization should be established to record demographic data relating to natives; and (3) to deliberate on implementation regulations for laws enacted by the French Parliament and decrees issued by the President of the French Republic, whenever such laws and decrees give the Territorial Assembly the authority to do so.

The proposed plan also calls for administrative districts (circles and subdivisions) in French Togoland to have their own budgets and elected councils. With revenue derived from local taxes, these budgets would finance projects bearing on the economic and social development of the districts concerned. However, the plan takes into consideration the fact that, in effect, this could apply only to districts

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endowed with sufficient resources to carry out large-scale development projects. Economically backward districts would have to be consolidated into more self-sufficient units. It is the belief of the proponents of the plan that this reform would encourage the education of the natives in the ways of democracy by allowing them to participate in the administration of local affairs.

UPPER VOLTA ADMINISTRATION TRANSFERRED TO OUAGADOUGOU -- Dakar, Paris-Dakar, 29 Dec 52

The administration of Upper Volta, which was provisionally set up in Bobo Dioulasso in 1947, is in the process of being transferred to Ouagadougou. The transfer has been under way since 15 December 1952. Thus far, the following services have been transferred: the Secretary General's office, the Finance Service, the Service of Economic Affairs and of the Plan, and the Treasury. The following services are scheduled for transfer between 1 and 15 March 1953: the Public Works Service, the Mining Service, and the Agricultural Service.

The remainder of the administration will be transferred when the necessary premises are available. Meanwhile, work is under way in Ouagadougou on the repair of old and the construction of new administrative buildings. Recently, the Territorial Assembly approved the appropriation of 25 million CFA francs to finance new building construction.

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